

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## ***Mayor Healy Announces \$2.6 Million UEZ Grant for Community Safety and Business Programs***

### ***Funding Appropriated for 27 Police Officers & Business Relocation Grants***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy announced that the Jersey City **Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Program** was recently awarded more than **\$2.6 million** in funding by the New Jersey Commerce Commission/Urban Enterprise Zone Authority.

The funding includes **\$1,562,843 in UEZ Assistance Funds** for **enhanced police presence** and **\$1 million** for the continuation of the **Business Relocation Grant Program**.

“Adding more police to the streets of Jersey City has been one of my top public safety priorities and we have hired more than 250 new police officers during the past four years,” **Mayor Healy** said. “We remain committed to continuing our strong police presence, even during these tough economic times.”

Mayor Healy explained that the Police Program Funding will cover one-year’s costs for 27 officers who graduated from the Police Academy in December 2007 and June 2008. The officers are already assigned to patrol Jersey City’s main business areas on all three shifts — Central Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Newark Avenue, Route 440, Westside Avenue, Ocean Avenue, Exchange Place, McGinley Square, Historic Downtown, Washington Boulevard, Monticello Avenue, Kennedy Boulevard, and Newport —via vehicles, on foot and/or bicycles.

“This funding allows us to continue to pay these officers’ salaries with grants rather than by increasing the burden on the taxpayer,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Thanks to the help of the UEZ funding we received in previous years, we have been able to increase police presence and security initiatives in our commercial districts.”

The Jersey City UEZ also requested and obtained \$1 million to continue the highly successful Business Relocation Grant Program. The funds will be used exclusively as grants of up to \$50,000 for eligible businesses that will relocate within the boundaries of the Jersey City Urban Enterprise Zone from outside of New Jersey.

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During the first phase of the Business Relocation Grant Program, which began late 2004, \$700,000 was awarded to fifteen businesses, and a total of 705 jobs were relocated and/or created here in Jersey City. Falcon International Distributing, a food distribution company that specializes in ethnic and Latino products, was awarded a Relocation Grant and moved to Jersey City from the Bronx in 2006. At that time, the company had 29 employees. Today, thanks in part to business incentives they enjoy as a UEZ member business, the company has grown and now employs 82 women and men.

“The Jersey City Economic Development Corporation and our UEZ will continue working with the State to attract businesses that will bring jobs and grow our economy,” **Mayor Healy** said.

The Jersey City UEZ was created to foster an economic climate that helps revitalize urban communities and stimulates their growth by encouraging businesses to start and develop private-sector jobs through public and private investment. Under the UEZ program, sales tax revenues generated by UEZ businesses are reinvested in economic development programs as well as capital investments and municipal services such as CCTV for street security, helping to purchase new police vehicles, and “clean-and-green” initiatives (sanitation services, planters in commercial districts, etc.).

Since the beginning of the UEZ program in Jersey City, more than \$90 million has been reinvested in more than 195 UEZ projects, generating more than \$12 billion in capital investments. These revitalization projects include the Journal Square Streetscape, the Citywide Blockfront Restoration, the restoration of the Loew’s Theatre, and the establishment of the City’s Special Improvement Districts. Additionally, UEZ business enrollments have accounted for the creation of 18,896 full-time jobs.

More information on the Jersey City Urban Enterprise Zone—including eligibility requirements for becoming a UEZ business, and information on benefits available to UEZ businesses— may be obtained at [www.jcedc.org](http://www.jcedc.org) or by phoning UEZ Director Roberta Farber at 201-333-7797, ext. 25.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.**